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ABSTRACT

This document provides a fall 2001 student profile for the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) (California). It includes information on student demographic and enrollment trends. Highlights show that: (1) student enrollment in the district has increased over each of the previous six years; (2) 69,390 students enrolled in one of the three district community colleges in fall 2001; (3) approximately 55% of students were white, with Asian and Latino students representing the next two largest ethnic categories, respectively; (4) the proportion of white student enrollment in the community college district has decreased slightly since 1996; (5) the community college population is slightly more diverse than the surrounding general population; (6) approximately 57% of students are female; moreover, African-American enrollment by gender shows the highest proportion of female students (60%); (7) the largest proportion (25%) of LRCCD enrollment by age are students between ages 18 and 20; (8) 49% of the students take classes during the day, 25% take classes at night, and 26% take classes during both times; (9) most students who enroll in the district express the intent to transfer to a four-year college or university. Contains eight charts. (MKF)

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Los Rios Community College District Office of Institutional Research

Fall 2001 Student Profile

Based upon First Census Data

November 2001

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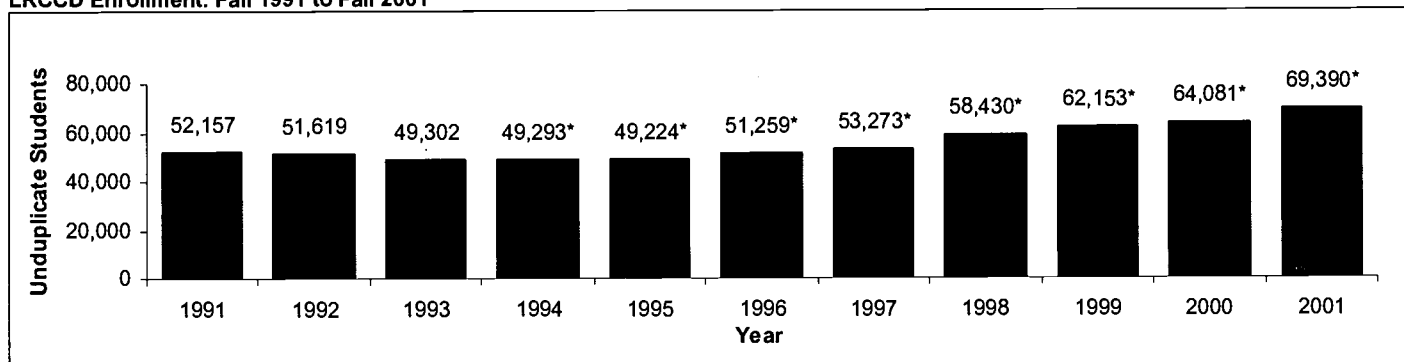
This is the twelfth in a series of Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) Fall Student Profiles. These annual summaries provide the District and its colleges -- American River College (ARC), Cosumnes River College (CRC) and Sacramento City College (SCC) -- with data on student demographics and enrollment trends, important information for successful planning to meet the needs of our changing student clientele. The Fall 2001 Student Profile includes a brief analysis of the separate demographic data for the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers which are part of Cosumnes River College. This report presents student enrollment data and Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) based on official Fall First Census reports that are issued at the beginning of the fourth week of classes. The report is also based upon demographic data generated from the official Fall Fourth Week Census research database. Analysis of demographic data since Fall 1993 includes all students enrolled as of the fourth week of classes. Analysis of student demography is based upon data that *excludes* those students who have dropped their courses by first census and those who have no corresponding match on the course schedule file.

District Enrollment

Chart 1 presents fall district enrollment data for the Los Rios Community College District. The enrollment pattern tends to reflect variations in state funding and population trends. Fee increases that took effect in 1993 probably contributed to the enrollment drop for that year, a drop that followed two years of more subtle decline. Enrollment was stabilized the following year, declining by less than 0.02% (9 fewer students) in Fall 1994 and in Fall 1995 by only 0.1% (69 fewer students).

Chart 1

LRCCD Enrollment: Fall 1991 to Fall 2001



* Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

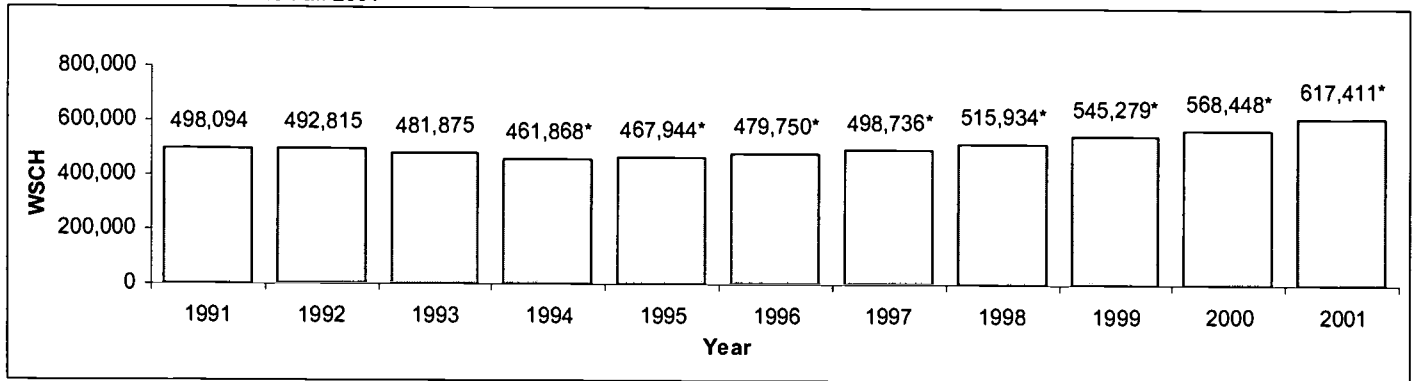
Since then, enrollment has increased annually beginning with a 4.1% increase in Fall 1996, followed by a 3.9% increase in Fall 1997 and a 9.7% enrollment increase in Fall 1998. Los Rios enrollment increases continued in Fall 1999, with a 6.4% increase and a 3.1% enrollment increase in Fall 2000. District-wide enrollment increased by 8.3% in Fall 2001 to 69,390 students enrolled.

Enrollment increased at each of the Los Rios colleges in Fall 2001: by 8.9% at ARC (to 29,892), by 7.4% at CRC (to 10,658, noting that Folsom Lake and El Dorado enrollment figures are now reported separately), by 8.0% at SCC (to 22,001) and by 8.1% (to 6,839) at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers.

District Weekly Student Contact Hours

Similar to Fall 2001 District enrollment, Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) increased by 8.6%. As indicated by Chart 2, this is the seventh annual increase.

Chart 2
LRCCD WSCH: Fall 1991 to Fall 2001



* Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

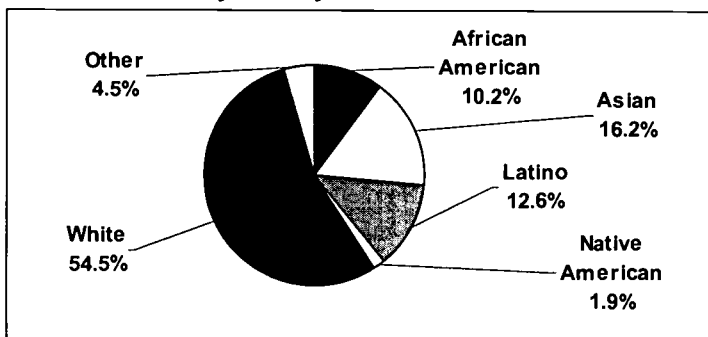
After a decline in WSCH, starting in Fall 1992, WSCH began steadily increasing from 1995 forward. Moreover, the ratio of WSCH to enrollment had been fairly consistent from Fall 1989 to Fall 1997, averaging 9.4 during these nine years. However, the WSCH to enrollment ratio at 4th week was a lower 8.8 both in Fall 1998 and 1999. Fourth week WSCH to enrollment ratios for both Fall 2000 and Fall 2001 remained stable, at a slightly higher 8.9. The lower ratios beginning in Fall 1998 may reflect the combined effects of an older student population who tend to take lighter unit loads, the increase in student enrollment at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers where many students also tend to take lighter unit loads due to current facilities limitations and the large 729.1% increase (from 86 in Fall 1996 to 713 in Fall 2001) in Advanced Education students (high school students who are concurrently enrolled in college courses) who take just one or two classes.

It is worth noting, however, the average units attempted by all students in Fall 2001 was 7.43, slightly higher than the 7.27 in Fall 2000, an increase that likely occurred because of the 3.3% increase in the number of high school graduates enrolling in Los Rios colleges. This helps to balance the combined effects of an older student body and Advanced Education Students on the enrollment to WSCH ratio.

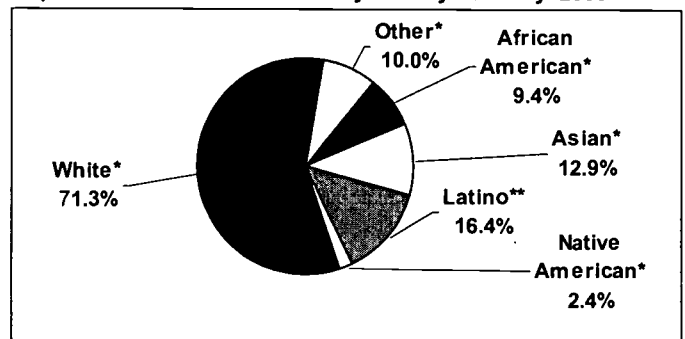
District Enrollment by Ethnicity

Chart 3 depicts the District's ethnic composition in Fall 2001, compared to the population of its three-county service area. This comparison shows that Los Rios enrolls higher proportions of Asian students, slightly higher proportions of African American students and lower proportions of Latino and white students than each group's proportion of the population. The Fall 2001 40.9% distribution of ethnic students at Los Rios colleges generally mirrors the Fall 2000 pattern and is just slightly higher than the 40.1% in Fall 1996.

Chart 3
LRCCD Enrollment by Ethnicity: Fall 2001



Population in the LRCCD 3-County Area by Ethnicity: 2000



Technical Notes:

"Other" includes students of all other and unknown ethnic categories.

* This race and mixed races thereof.

** Latino data from the U.S. Census overlaps other ethnic categories, hence percentages do not total 100.0%.

Source for Service Area Population:

U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Profile of General Demographic Characteristics of the 2000 Population*, issued by SACOG (the local repository for the U.S. Bureau of the Census).

Asian students continue to be the largest minority group enrolled in Los Rios colleges but the 16.2% of Asian students enrolled district-wide this Fall remained relatively unchanged from Fall 1996. The remaining ethnic composition of the District's Fall 2001 enrollment is as follows: Latinos, 12.6%; African Americans, 10.2%; Native Americans, 1.9%; and the remaining 4.5% include students from various other ethnic minority groups and those students who declined to state their ethnicity. There continues to be slight declines in the proportion of white student enrollment at Los Rios colleges, decreasing from 56.6% in Fall 1996 to 54.5% in Fall 2001.

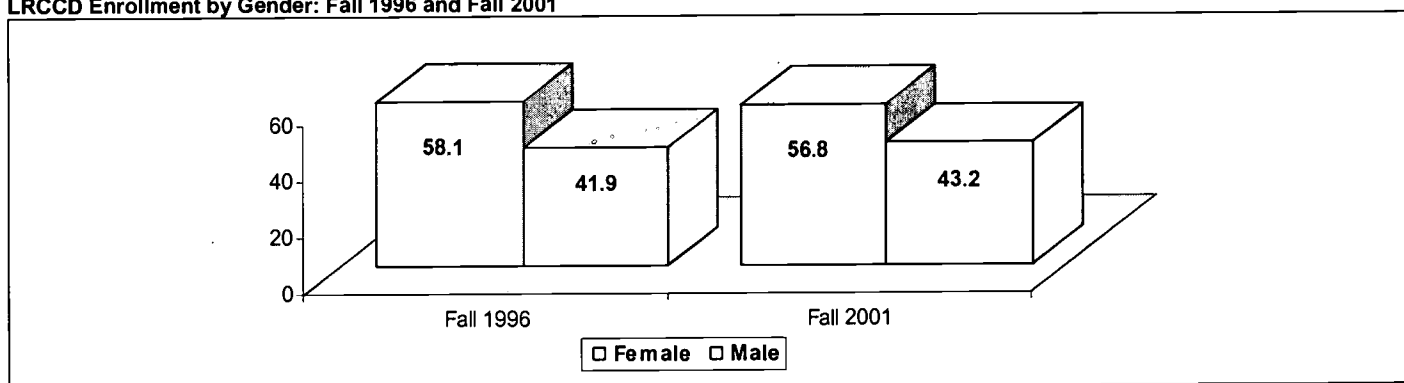
There are some interesting differences in Fall 2001 enrollment based on ethnicity at the college level. Overall, the CRC ethnic composition looks more like that of SCC than like the district as a whole. CRC enrolls the highest proportion of Asian students (26.1%) and also enrolls higher proportions of African Americans (15.1%) and Latinos (13.3%) than comparable District enrollment proportions. SCC also enrolls a higher proportion of Asians (23.5%), Latinos (15.7%) and African Americans (12.7%) when compared to District enrollment proportions. ARC enrollment based on ethnicity shows a lower proportion in each of the ethnic categories except Native Americans (noting the small numbers) and a higher proportion of white student (63.4%) enrollment, although the proportion of white students at ARC has decreased from 66.9% in Fall 1996.

Analysis of the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers' Fall 2001 ethnicity profile results in a much different enrollment pattern. There is a substantially higher proportion of white students enrolled at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers, at 76.0% and 85.7%, respectively.

District Enrollment by Gender

Historically, there has been very little change in the proportions of men and women enrolled at Los Rios colleges, fluctuating less than 1% between fall semesters. Chart 4 illustrates this fact; there was a slight decrease (1.3%) in the proportion of women enrolled in Los Rios colleges from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001.

Chart 4
LRCCD Enrollment by Gender: Fall 1996 and Fall 2001



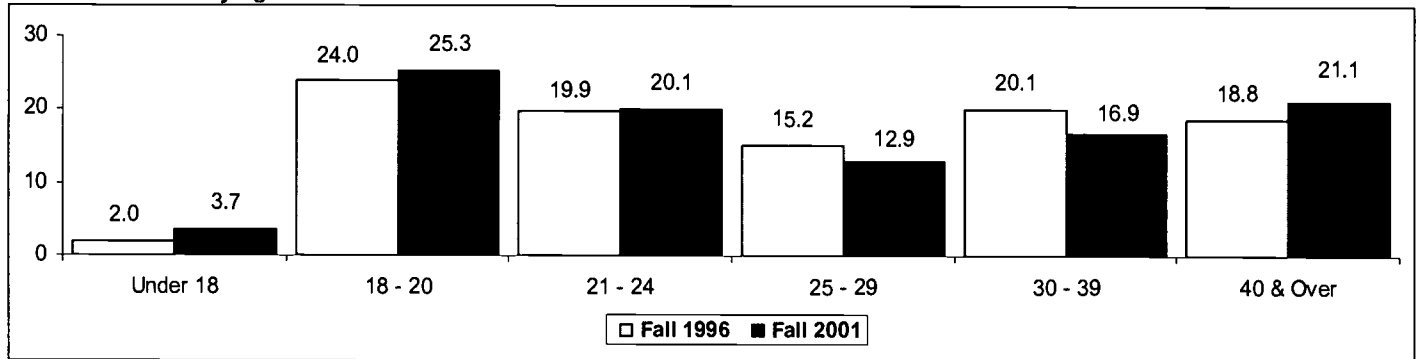
The enrollment pattern by gender varies somewhat among the Los Rios colleges. ARC has a slightly higher proportion of male students (46.0%) and a lower proportion of female students (54.0%), than the District for Fall 2001. In comparison, CRC has a slightly higher proportion of female students (57.5%) than male students (42.5%). SCC's enrollment proportions of women to men varies only slightly from the District, with 57.9% female and 42.1% male enrollment. The proportion of females enrolled at Folsom Lake (63.2%) and El Dorado (66.0%) for Fall 2001 are much higher than the comparable District enrollment proportions.

Fall 2001 District ethnic enrollment by gender illustrates differing enrollment patterns within several ethnic categories. African American enrollment by gender has a higher proportion of female students (60.2%) than males (39.8%), proportions that have remained relatively stable since Fall 1996. The proportion of female African American students is an even higher 62.7% at CRC and 61.5% at SCC, while the 57.6% proportion of female African American students at ARC generally reflects district proportions. Asian students continue to enroll relatively similar proportions of females (53.6%) and males (46.4%) district-wide, however there was a 2.1% increase in the proportion of Asian females enrolled in LRCCD since Fall 1996. District-wide, the proportion of female Latino enrollment is 55.9%; however, higher proportions of female Latino students enroll at SCC and CRC, at 59.6% and 59.3%, respectively. Latino enrollment reflects a lower proportion of females (48.8%) than males (51.2%) at American River College.

District Enrollment by Age Group

Chart 5 illustrates the proportions of LRCCD students under-18 and who are 18-20 increased from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001. The largest proportion of LRCCD enrollment continues to be the 25.3% of students ages 18-20. While enrollment proportions for students 21-24 remained relatively unchanged, the chart illustrates decreases in each of the two age categories of students 25 through 39. The proportion of students ages 25-29 decreased from 15.2% in Fall 1996 to 12.9% in Fall 2001. Similarly, the proportion of students, ages 30-39 decreased from 20.1% in Fall 1996 to 16.9% in Fall 2001. There continues to be growth in the proportion of students 40-and-over, from 18.8% of all students in Fall 1996 to 21.1% in Fall 2001. However, the proportion of those 40-and-over is smaller than in years past reflected by a slight 0.9% decrease. It is likely the shifts in enrollment by age at Los Rios colleges are indicative of the changing population within the greater Sacramento area.

Chart 5
LRCCD Enrollment by Age: Fall 1996 and Fall 2001



Overall, ARC and SCC enrollment patterns by age generally reflect the district enrollment pattern. ARC does, however, enroll slightly lower proportions of younger students under-20 than the district overall, 26.2% compared to 29.0% district-wide in Fall 2001. The 39.6% of ARC students 30-and-over is slightly higher than the 38.0% of students 30-and-over, district-wide. SCC tends to enroll a higher proportion of students who are younger, illustrated by the 66.1% proportion of SCC students who are 29-and-under in Fall 2001 compared to 62.0% district-wide. Similarly, the proportion of SCC students 30-and-over was 34.0% compared to 38.0% district-wide.

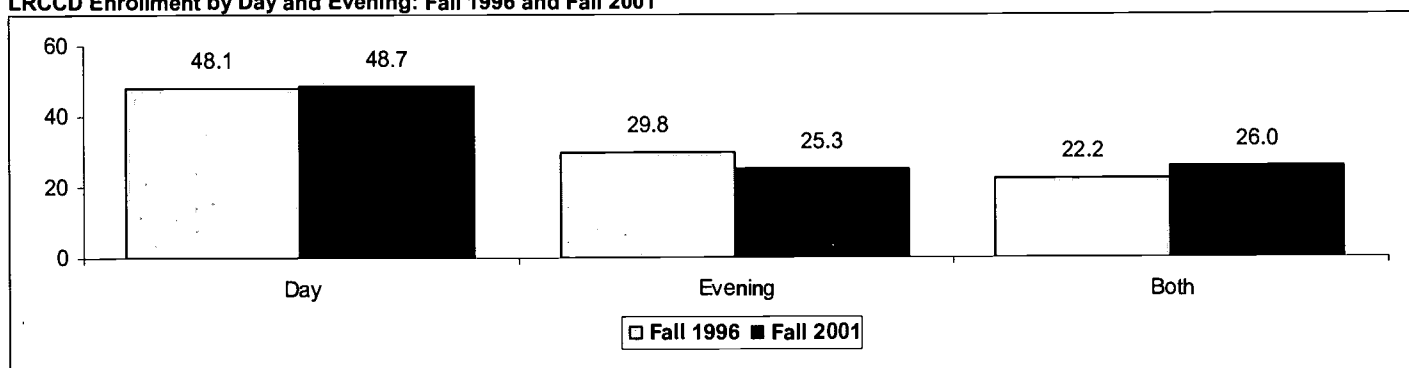
Comparing CRC's enrollment by age without the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers demonstrates a slightly younger population enrolling at CRC (3.9% of Fall 2001 students are under-18 and 29.5% are ages 18-20) and slightly lower proportions of older students (19.1% of CRC students are 40-and-over). Of further interest is the increase in the proportion of students under-18 enrolled at Folsom Lake Center, increasing from 5.2% of all students in Fall 1996 to 10.3% in Fall 2001. Students 40-and-over also enroll in higher proportions at Folsom Lake Center, 29.2% compared to the 21.1% district-wide this Fall. The El Dorado Center also enrolls higher proportions of students under-18 (6.6%) and students 40-and-over (34.7%) than comparable district proportions.

The average age of a Los Rios student is 29.5, with a slightly younger 28.5 average age of CRC students and 28.8 for SCC students. The average student age is slightly higher at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers, at 31.5 and 33.1, respectively. The average age of a student attending ARC (29.7) mirrors the district.

District Enrollment by Day and Evening Attendance

Chart 6 compares the District proportions of day and evening attendance for Fall 1996 and Fall 2001. Figures indicate that the proportions of students taking courses offered only during the day remained relatively unchanged from 48.1% in Fall 1996 to 48.7% in Fall 2001. There were lower proportions of students taking courses only during the evening this Fall than there were in Fall 1996.

Chart 6
LRCCD Enrollment by Day and Evening: Fall 1996 and Fall 2001



Conversely, the proportion of Fall 2001 students taking *both* day and evening courses is slightly higher than was the case five years earlier.

Table 1 summarizes day and evening attendance patterns by college for Fall 1996 and Fall 2001. The proportion of ARC students attending classes only during the day is slightly higher than that of the district. However, slightly lower proportions of ARC students attend courses offered only during the evening as well as courses offered *both* during the day and evening than comparable students district-wide. CRC students continue to enroll in day only courses in slightly lower proportions than students district-wide as well as students at both ARC and SCC. Interestingly, the proportion of CRC students enrolling in courses offered *both* during the day and evening remained an unchanged 31.0% in Fall 2001 as compared to the previous year. Conversely, the proportion of CRC students taking courses offered only in the evening declined from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001 and the 24.3% of CRC students enrolled in evening only courses this Fall generally mirrors Fall 2000 figures. SCC's proportional enrollment of students taking day only courses is very similar to district enrollment for Fall 2001 as is the proportion of SCC students taking courses offered in the evening only. SCC students enroll in courses offered during *both* day and evening in higher proportions than both ARC and district-wide, but is slightly lower than the comparable proportion at CRC.

Table 1
Day and Evening Attendance: Fall 1996 and Fall 2001

	Fall 1996			Fall 2001		
	<u>Day</u>	<u>Evening</u>	<u>Both Day and Evening</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Evening</u>	<u>Both Day and Evening</u>
ARC	49.5%	28.3%	22.3%	52.2%	23.6%	24.2%
CRC	43.0%	32.4%	24.7%	44.7%	24.3%	31.0%
FLC	27.5%	48.0%	24.5%	32.1%	37.5%	30.4%
EDC	32.0%	36.2%	31.9%	38.3%	25.7%	35.9%
SCC	51.8%	25.1%	23.1%	48.2%	23.6%	28.3%
LRCCD	48.1%	29.8%	22.2%	48.7%	25.3%	26.0%

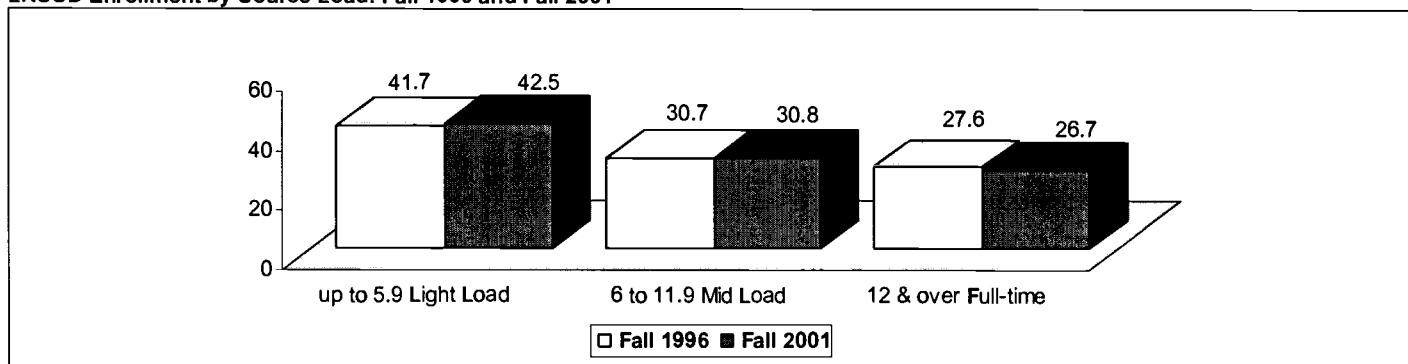
Enrollment patterns by day and evening attendance continue to shift at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers. The proportion of Folsom Lake students enrolled in courses offered during the day only increased, from 27.5% of all students in Fall 1996 to 32.1% in Fall 2001, but this reflects a decrease from the 36.7% level last Fall. Conversely, the proportion of Folsom Lake students enrolled only in evening courses declined from 48.0% of all students in Fall 1996 to 37.5% in Fall 2001. However, those students enrolling only in evening courses increased from the previous Fall 2000 proportion of 27.7%. The proportion of Folsom Lake students enrolling in *both* day and evening courses decreased annually, from 35.7% in Fall 2000 to 30.4% in Fall 2001.

Comparatively, El Dorado student enrollment proportions by day and evening attendance are different than those of Folsom Lake. El Dorado students enrolling in courses offered during *both* day and evening decreased, from 38.2% of all students enrolled in Fall 2000 to 35.9% in Fall 2001. The proportion of students enrolled in courses offered during the evening only decreased as well, from 31.1% in Fall 2000 to 25.7% of all students enrolled in Fall 2001. Conversely, the proportion of enrollment in courses offered during the day only increased at El Dorado Center, from 30.7% in Fall 2000 to 38.3% in Fall 2001.

Unit Load by District Students

Three categories of unit load are illustrated in Chart 7 to demonstrate trends in students' course loads in Fall 1996 and Fall 2001. "Light load" students are those taking fewer than six units; "mid-load" students are those taking six to 11.9 units; and "full-time" students are those with 12 or more units. This analysis demonstrates that enrollment by unit load remained relatively unchanged from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001.

Chart 7
LRCCD Enrollment by Course Load: Fall 1996 and Fall 2001



Sacramento City College had the greatest proportion of full-time students (30.8%) although a slightly lower proportion than its 32.5% in Fall 1996. Full-time student enrollment at CRC mirrored that of SCC with 29.6% of CRC students enrolled full-time in Fall 2001. ARC continues to enroll a slightly lower proportion of full-time students than either SCC or CRC. It remains clear that all of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions, with full-time student enrollment on a district-wide basis remaining relatively unchanged over the past five-year period.

As would be expected, due to facilities limitations, proportions of students who take light course loads are higher at the centers, at 56.7% at Folsom Lake and 53.0% at El Dorado. The proportion of mid-load students enrolled at both the centers are lower than those of the district overall. The 17.4% proportion of full-time students enrolled in Folsom Lake is much different than district proportions. But, the change in the 13.9% proportion of all Folsom Lake Center students attending full-time in 1996 to 17.4% this Fall reflects last year's completion of the first major building of what will become the District's fourth college. Although the 20.4% of all students who are enrolled full-time in El Dorado in Fall 2001 is slightly higher than that in Folsom Lake, this is lower than El Dorado Center's 22.4% proportion in Fall 1996.

Enrollment Status of District Students

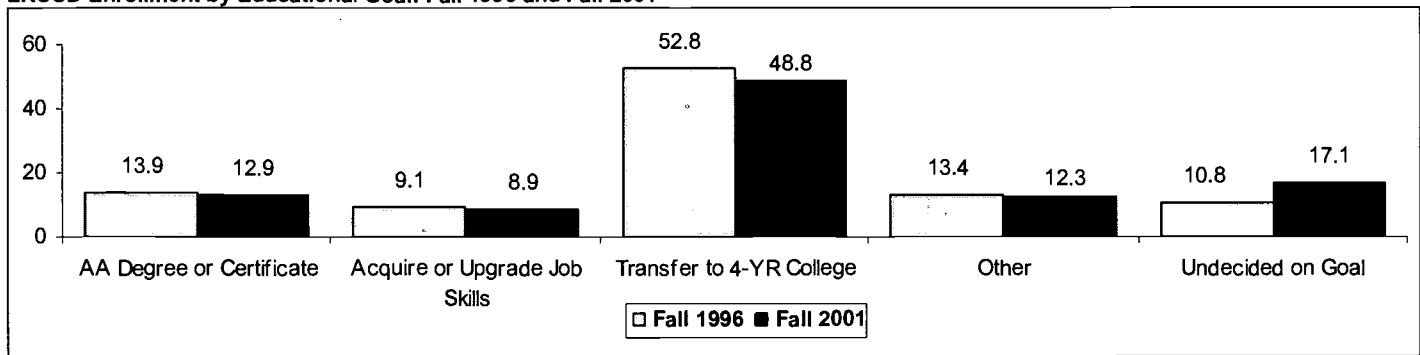
Almost half, 49.6%, of LRCCD students are continuing students, which represent the largest proportion of Fall 2001 student enrollment. Worth noting, is the increase in the proportion of students who are Advanced Education students, increasing from 0.9% of all students in Fall 1996 to 3.5% in Fall 2001. There were slight declines in the proportions of students returning after an absence and of new transfer students from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001. The 17.8% proportion of new students remained relatively unchanged from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001.

One of the most interesting things about enrollment by student status at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers is the high proportion of Advanced Education students, a possible reflection of ongoing high school recruitment efforts at the two centers. Likewise, each of the Los Rios colleges are developing similarly strong relationships with local feeder high schools. The proportion of all students who are Advanced Education students at Folsom Lake Center is 11.4% and at El Dorado Center the proportion is 6.7%.

District Enrollment by Educational Goal

In an effort to better understand why students attend Los Rios colleges, Chart 8 depicts the educational goals of Los Rios students for Fall 1996 and Fall 2001. The proportion of all students with the goal of obtaining an Associate's Degree or Certificate is slightly lower now than in Fall 1996. Similarly, the proportion of all students with the goal to transfer to a 4-year institution also decreased, from 52.8% in Fall 1996 to 48.8% in Fall 2001.

Chart 8
LRCCD Enrollment by Educational Goal: Fall 1996 and Fall 2001



Students enrolling in a Los Rios college to acquire or upgrade their job skills remained relatively unchanged at 8.9% in Fall 2001. The proportion of students enrolled at a Los Rios college for other reasons (GED Completion, Education Development, Basic Skills Improvement, Discover Career Interests and Maintain Certificate or License) also decreased slightly from 13.4% of all students in Fall 1996 to 12.3% in Fall 2001. Those students undecided on their educational goal increased, from 10.8% of all students in Fall 1996 to 17.1% in Fall 2001. Further analysis of educational goal by both enrollment status and by age group shows an increase in the proportions of students undecided on their goal in each category. However, the most substantial increases are found among Advanced Education students, increasing from 24.1% undecided in Fall 1996 to 40.4% in Fall 2001. It makes sense, then, that students under-18 who are undecided on their educational goal also increased in higher proportions than students in other age categories, from 22.0% of all students in Fall 1996 to 36.1% this Fall. More older students (those ages 30-and-over), a group that tends to take a low unit load, also have undecided goals in slightly higher proportions.

Considering the profile of students at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers, as well as current facilities limitations, it is interesting to note that the goals of these students are not that much different than those of Los Rios students district-wide. Although the proportions are slightly lower (42.7% at Folsom Lake and 38.7% at El Dorado) than the District (48.8%), the highest proportion of students at these two centers have the same goals as students throughout the district -- to transfer to a 4-year institution with or without an Associate's Degree. However, there are also higher proportions of students enrolled who are interested in other types of educational goals, 15.9% at Folsom Lake and 21.2% at El Dorado. The 13.0% of Folsom Lake Center students who enroll with a goal of acquiring or upgrading their job skills generally reflects the district-wide proportion, while the 9.3% of El Dorado students with this goal is lower.

Summary Remarks

The data presented in the Fall 2001 Student Profile illustrate the overall growth of Los Rios Community College District's enrollment as well as some changing demographic trends. Enrollment has increased substantially each year from Fall 1996 and continued through Fall 2001. Annual enrollment growth was a high 8.3% in Fall 2001. WSCH increased by a similar 8.6% from Fall 2000 to Fall 2001.

Long-term demographic trends remained relatively constant in Fall 2001. The proportions by ethnicity remained stable as did enrollment by gender. The trend of an older student body at Los Rios continues, with 21.1% of all students enrolled in the 40-and-over age category. However, students who are 18 through 20 remain the largest proportion of the district's enrollment, at 25.3% this Fall. Although students under-18 as a proportion of total enrollment hasn't increased drastically, the growth in the *number* of students under-18 has, by 139.4% district-wide from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001. The average age of the Los Rios student is 29.5 this Fall.

Attendance patterns have shifted over the past five years with fewer students taking only evening courses while student enrollment in day only courses remained unchanged from Fall 1996. It is the proportion of all students taking *both* day and evening courses that has increased from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001. This increase in the proportion of all students in *both* day and evening courses is a result of a 50.0% growth in the *number* of students taking both day and evening courses this Fall compared to 1996.

Los Rios remains a predominantly part-time institution, with 42.5% of Fall 2001 students taking light course loads. Even though the *proportion* of full-time enrollment declined slightly from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001, the *number* of full-time students increased by 23.7%; part-time enrollment continues to grow at a faster rate than full-time student enrollment.

Practically half of Los Rios students (49.6%) are continuing students. But more high school students are enrolling now than five years ago. This increase is attributed to the substantial 369.6% district-wide growth in the *number* of Advanced Education students over the past five years, from 457 in 1996 to 2,146 this Fall.

Students with the goal of obtaining an Associate's Degree or Certificate remained relatively unchanged from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001. Conversely, the *proportion* of all students who are attending Los Rios Colleges with the goal to transfer to a 4-year college decreased by 4.0% from Fall 1996 to Fall 2001. The proportion of all students who are attending Los Rios colleges to acquire or upgrade job skills remained relatively unchanged during this five-year period. The proportion of students who are undecided on their goal has increased from 10.8% in Fall 1996 to 17.1% this Fall. This is due to the 106.6% rate of growth in the *number* of students undecided on their goals, from 5,143 in Fall 1996 to 10,627 this Fall.

A look at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers shows that although there are similarities with the district, there are some noteworthy differences in the student profiles of these two centers. Folsom Lake and El Dorado differ in the following way: a higher proportion of students are female; a substantially higher proportion are white; a higher proportion are under-18 (particularly at Folsom Lake Center) and a higher proportion are 40-and-over, compared to students district-wide. The *number* of Advanced Education students at Folsom Lake Center increased from 77 students in Fall 1996 to 525 students in Fall 2001. Likewise, there was a dramatic growth in the numbers of Advanced Education students at the El Dorado Center: from a mere 9 students in Fall 1996 to 188 in Fall 2001. Slightly more Folsom Lake Center students are now taking courses only during the day than in the past, which could reflect the addition of Folsom Lake Center's first permanent building. Folsom Lake will become the District's fourth college in 2003. More El Dorado Center students are increasingly taking courses during *both* the day and the evening. Nonetheless, the proportions of all students at Folsom Lake (56.7%) and El Dorado (53.0%) who take light class loads are still higher than students district-wide (42.5%).

The Fall 2001 Profile is based on unduplicate student demography generated from the fall First Census reports that are issued at the beginning of the fourth week of classes. Also of interest to enrollment growth and shifting demographic trends is the number of duplicate students -- those students attending more than one Los Rios college. The number of duplicate enrollees increased from approximately 956 in Fall 1996 to 1,118 students in Fall 2001, a 16.9% increase. This suggests that the mobility of our students and their willingness to travel to take the courses they need continues, but not at the increasing pace we have noted in the past. Of additional interest is the 1,118 duplicate students in Fall 2001 is actually less than the 1,443 reported in Fall 2000.

This report was written by Betty Glycer-Culver, Research Analyst, and is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, IT Analyst II.

For further information please call: 916-568-3131 or email: loc@do.losrios.cc.ca.us, LRCCD Office of Institutional Research (IR).

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